

2017 Gulf Shores Adult Softball Rules

I. Team Roster/ Player Eligibility

1. Team rosters can have a maximum of 20 players per team. Only players listed on the official team roster will be considered eligible to play. Use of an ineligible player is an automatic forfeit to the opposing team. A player who is proven to have been an ineligible player is automatically suspended for the season. Players will need to bring a photo ID to games. Exception is pick-up of another team's rostered player.
2. League fees are \$200 per team. League fees must be paid in full by the start of games (no exceptions).
3. Players must be able to show proof of identity upon request.
4. All Players must be 18 years of age or older.
5. All participating players must be on their team's league roster with completed information and signature before their first game.
6. Managers who lose players during the season due to injury or employment transfer/family moving so that such players will not be available to play, may petition the Athletic Coordinator in writing to get permission to replace the injured or transferred players. Only before the end of the regular season.
7. Teams participating in the end of season tournament may only use players listed on their official roster.
8. The deadline to fill empty roster spots (maximum of 20 players) is after the 2nd week of games. After this point no new players may be added to a team roster. New player information and player signature must be on the team roster. **Deadline is Friday, September 15th.**
9. Teams that violate player eligibility rules forfeit their right to reclaim any part of their league fee if they are dropped or suspended from the league.
10. All teams and their players must abide by the Code of Conduct. Violations to the Code of Conduct can result in suspension or expulsion from the league.

II. Manager

1. The manager shall be the official representative of his/her team unless he/she designates one of their players as captain before the start of the game.
2. The manager is the only person on a team allowed to discuss any point of play with the umpire.
3. Managers are responsible for informing their players of the league rules and Code of Conduct and enforcing it. In addition the manager will be responsible for actions/words of his/her spectators.
4. Managers will meet with the umpire 5 minutes prior to the game exchange line up cards and review the ground rules of the upcoming game.

III. Coed League Rules

1. **All games will be played according to the USSSA Rule book except where local rules supersede**
2. No manager, representative of a team, or any umpire may waive any playing or league rule at any time.
3. Teams will field 5 women/ 5 men for games. If a team is unable to field 10, 4 women/ 5 men OR 5 women/ 4 men will be acceptable. No requirement on which gender plays which position in the field.
4. A team must be able to field 9 players to start a game but can finish with 8. Teams are allowed to pick up players listed on another team's roster to make 9 but cannot pick up players to field 10. (exception to player eligibility rule 1.1)
5. Batting Line-Up: Lineups are allowed to have 12 batters, the 10 playing the field and 2 extra hitters OR 10 batters, the 10 playing the field. Every player playing the field must be in the lineup. Players who arrive after the lineups have been exchanged may be added to **the end of the lineup**.
6. Batting Line-ups must alternate sexes each batter.
7. Same sex, back to back in the batting lineup is prohibited, unless
8. If a team has only 9 players. The first and last batter may have same sex batters back to back when line-up turns over.
9. If a team is playing with a minimum of 9 players, the 10th batting spot will be an out.
10. If a male is walked, the following female batter has the option to walk also. The male will be granted 2nd base.
11. Courtesy Runner: One courtesy runner is allowed per inning. The courtesy runner must be the player who made the last out.
12. Homeruns: One homerun is allowed per inning, per team. Homeruns **do not** carry over to the next inning. If homerun limit is exceeded, the homerun will be considered an out.
13. COED League will use 12" softballs, .40 core / 325 compression.
14. Two softballs will be provided, per game, by the City of Gulf Shores Recreation & Cultural Affairs.
15. No battling practice will be allowed prior to game time on the fields
16. GAME TIME: A ten minute grace period will be allowed. If the grace period is exceeded the team that is tardy will begin the game 4 runs down. If the game begins late, time will be taken off of the official game time to stay on schedule. If the game begins late and the two teams are not at fault, the time will be added to the playing time.
17. Each game will have 1(one) hour time limit. No new inning will start after the time limit is exceeded.
18. TIES: the international tiebreaker rule will be used until a winner is declared.

19. **INTERNATIONAL TIEBREAKER:** The player who made the last out in the previous inning will start at second to begin the extra inning. One pitch per batter. No fouls. 1 pitch per batter.
20. **BALLS AND STRIKES:** All leagues will begin with a 1 ball/ 1 strike count. A “free” foul ball will be received after the batter has 2 strikes.
21. **MERCY RULE:** 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings, and 10 runs after 5 innings
22. Umpire will keep the score on the field.
23. **The home team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook.**

IV. Men’s League Rules

1. **All games will be played according to the USSSA Rule book except where local rules supersede**
2. No manager, representative of a team, or any umpire may waive any playing or league rule at any time.
3. Teams will field 10 players for games.
4. A team must be able to field 9 players to start a game but can finish with 8. Teams are allowed to pick up players listed on another team’s roster to make 9 but cannot pick up players to field 10. (exception to player eligibility rule 1.1)
5. **Batting Line-Up:** Lineups are allowed to have 12 batters, the 10 playing the field and 2 extra hitters OR 10 batters, the 10 playing the field. Every player playing the field must be in the lineup. Players who arrive after the lineups have been exchanged may be added to **the end of the lineup.**
6. If a team is playing with a minimum of 9 players, the 10th batting spot will be an out.
7. **Courtesy Runner:** One courtesy runner is allowed per inning. The courtesy runner must be the player who made the last out.
8. **Homeruns:** One homerun is allowed per inning, per team. Homeruns **do not** carry over to the next inning. If homerun limit is exceeded, the homerun will be considered an out.
9. MEN’s League will use 12” softballs, .40 core / 325 compression.
10. Two softballs will be provided, per game, by the City of Gulf Shores Recreation & Cultural Affairs.
11. No battling practice will be allowed prior to game time on the fields
24. **GAME TIME:** A ten minute grace period will be allowed for the first game only. If the grace period is exceeded the team that is tardy will begin the game 4 runs down. If the game begins late, time will be taken off of the official game time to stay on schedule. If the game begins late and the two teams are not at fault, the time will be added to the playing time.
12. Each game will have 1(one) hour time limit. No new inning will start after the time limit is exceeded.
13. **TIES:** the international tiebreaker rule will be used until a winner is declared.

14. INTERNATIONAL TIEBREAKER: The player who made the last out in the previous inning will start at second to begin the extra inning. One pitch per batter. No fouls. 1 pitch per batter.
15. BALLS AND STRIKES: All leagues will begin with a 1 ball/ 1 strike count. A “free” foul ball will be received after the batter has 2 strikes.
16. MERCY RULE: 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings, and 10 runs after 5 innings
17. Umpire will keep the score on the field.

The home team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook.

V. Uniforms

1. Jewelry is prohibited while playing.
2. Players must wear like colored jerseys. Players wearing a different colored jersey will only be permitted if they are picked up from another team in order to get the minimum number of players.
3. All jerseys will have a permanently affixed number on the back at least six inches in height. NO tape, drawn or duplicating numbers.
4. Teams must have team jerseys by the end of the first week of games. A player not in his/her jersey after the first week of games will not be eligible to play. A team not in uniform will result in forfeiture. If a player has lost or misplaced his/her jersey, they will need to wear a shirt in like color with their team until his/her jersey is found or replaced.
5. Players may not change jerseys after the line-ups are exchanged.
6. Sleeves may be cut off; NO tank top style shirts are allowed.

VI. Equipment

1. No metal cleats are allowed.
2. Softball bats must be USSSA certified.
3. Titanium bats are prohibited.
4. Bats used may not be altered in any way.
5. Bats not permitted for use: Miken Ultra, Senior League Bat (unless player using the bat is a card carrying senior league player).
6. Umpires and/or park staff may remove any form of illegal equipment. Any case of using illegal equipment will result in suspension of the offending player for the season. The team manager may also be suspended.

VII. Player Conduct

1. Players, coaches, managers, and spectators are expected to demonstrate a good sporting attitude and courteous behavior.
2. All teams are responsible for picking up trash in their dugout prior to leaving the field.

3. Profane language or displaying unsportsmanlike conduct towards umpires, opposing teams, spectators, park patrons and staff will not be tolerated and will be given a warning or prompt ejection depending on the severity.
4. Any person ejected from the game must leave the park premises and will also be suspended from their next scheduled game.
5. Failure of an ejected player to leave the premises will result in a forfeit of the game.
6. **First Ejection-** The person will be suspended for the remainder of the game, the next scheduled game and must leave the parks premises.
7. **Second Ejection-** The player or coach will be suspended for the season, including any postseason tournament play and must leave the park premises immediately.
8. Use of tobacco products are prohibited on or around the fields.
9. No Alcoholic beverages are allowed on the park grounds. Team managers are responsible for enforcing this rule. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit and possible suspension of the team or player(s) involved.

VIII. Protest

1. All protests or questions about participation, conduct, equipment, or rule violations will be referred to the Athletic Coordinator and/or staff at the fields.
2. Any questions regarding the legality of a player should be handles prior to the game or as soon as it is noticed. Everything that happened prior to an illegal player be identified will stand.
3. Protests regarding the judgment of the umpires shall not be considered or received.
4. Protests during a game should be brought to the umpire's, staff and opposing manager's attention immediately.
5. Protests must go through the Athletic Coordinator and/or staff at the fields.
6. Protests made after the conclusion of a game will not be given consideration.

IX. Insurance

1. Play at your own risk
2. The Recreation Department is not responsible, in any way, for personal or property damage. All players must sign a waiver of liability prior to participating.

X. Miscellaneous

1. In the event of an official fails to appear, the managers may agree to play without an umpire, but not without a city representative, otherwise the game will be postponed.
2. All comments concerning the league managers, scorers, park attendants, officials and field conditions should be directed to the City of Gulf Shores Recreation & Cultural Affairs in writing.

Code of Conduct

1. Acceptable Behavior
 - Be respectful and courteous to umpires, staff and other participants
 - Participate in planned activities
 - Follow directions or charges given by staff
 - Exhibit and maintain positive attitudes toward the environment and facilities
 - Exhibit and maintain respect for all property, facilities and equipment, both public and private
2. Unacceptable Behavior
 - Noncompliance with department rules and regulations
 - Failure to cooperate with staff and or leadership
 - Abusive language includes use of profanity in front of any child or direct insults towards staff in charge, park officials, and park patrons.
 - Verbal threats
 - Physical violence
 - Obscene language or gestures, or possession of obscene or suggestive materials or photos
 - Vandalism, theft of property or equipment, littering, or damaging government property
 - Use of tobacco products
 - Distribution or consumption of alcohol or drugs
 - Possession of weapons of any kind
 - Any unlawful activity

Disciplinary Actions for Violations of Code of Conduct

If spectators, players, and/or managers fail to abide by the code of conduct aforementioned, they will be subject to disciplinary action as decided by the City of Gulf Shores Recreation Department.

Disciplinary action could include, but is not limited to:

- **Verbal warnings**
 - **Written warnings**
 - **Ejections**
 - **Suspensions for various lengths**
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- Officials and City of Gulf Shores Recreation Department staff have the authority to remove a player, manager, or spectator from a game and can declare the game a forfeit due to unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - Any player, manager, or spectator ejected from any athletic league activity is suspended for a minimum of one (1) game suspension for the next scheduled game. The suspension could be longer depending on the severity of the infraction.
 - Suspensions and ejections are not eligible for appeal.
 - Players, managers, and spectators who have been ejected must leave the complex and may not return until the completion of their suspension.
 - The City of Gulf Shores Police Department will immediately be notified of any player, coach, or spectator ejected and/refusing to follow instructions of officials and or staff.